[English]

Consumption of Agricultural Products

*376 SHRI ANANTH KUMAR Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the total consumption of the agricultural products as against their production in the country during 1995-96;

(b) whether per capita availability consumption of foodgrains is being maintained; and

(c) if so, the details of per capita availability consumption of foodgrains during Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The estimates of aggregate consumption of agricultural products are not being generated. However, total consumption of foodgrains during 1995-96 is estimated to be about 189 million tonnes as against the production of 185 million tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The per capita availability/consumption of foograins during Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise, is as under :

Year	Per capita net availability of Foodgrains (Kg.)
1993	169.4 (P)
1994	172.0 (P)
1995	184.9 (P)
1996	181.8 (P)

(P) : Provisional

[Translation]

National Gene Bank

*377. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Gene Bank has been established recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the main objective of the Bank;

(c) the total amount spent for the setting up of Gene Bank; and

(d) the time by which the Bank would be functional?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Gene Bank was established in order to preserve the Genetic variability and to check thereby erosion of plant genetic resources including farmer's traditional varieties, rich in genetic diversity. The Gene Banks basic objective is to preseve the genetic variability and make it available for crop improvement.

The National Gene Bank at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) Headquaters, New Delhi has been established under the Joint Indo-USAID PGR Project. The Gene Bank comprises 12 long term storage modules (-20°C) and 1 medium term storage module (+4 C). It also has a cryo Bank (storage in liquid nitrogen at -196° C and Tissue Culture Repository (10 C to 25°C).

(c) Until now, an expenditure of Rs. 17.84 crore has been incurred on the construction of the comple of NBPGR (50% reimbursed by USAID). Procurement laboratory instruments and other equipment for Ger Bank amounted US $ 5 million. USAID share bring U $ 4.5 million in foreign exchange and 0.5 million local currency. The total project is being implemente with an overall outlay of US $ 27.95 million.

(d) The germplasm storage and conservation w become functional in the first quarter of 1997 and modules will be filled up in a planned manner. Tl Gene Bank is currently under testing for its efficie functioning.

Research Centres

*378 SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of agriculture research centres, improved seeds centres and other research centres opened in the country to ensure the objectives of green revolution, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of these research centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of efforts made for providing benefit to farmers from the agriculture research centres and other related research centres?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The details of agricultural research centres, improved seeds centres and other research centres, opened in the country to ensure the objectives of green revolution is given in Statement-I.